Public Notice

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program **September 2009**

Application for State of Washington Coastal Zone Management Act Consistency

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has received an application to perform work in waters of the United States as described below.

Ecology will review the work pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act.

This notice is only intended to inform all interested parties of the proposed projects and to seek comments from the public, local, state, federal, and tribal agencies. It does not indicate approval of the proposed projects by any state agency.

Project Name:

Sande-Williams Levee Repairs

Public Notice Date:

9/16/09

Comment Period Ends:

10/6/09

Comments should be sent to:

Department of Ecology
SEA Program
Federal Project Coordinator.
Post Office Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504

ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov

Applicant

Attn: Chuck Ebel (PM-PL-ER)
Environmental Resources Section
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124
Telephone: (206) 764-3626

Location

Sande-Williams Levee, Nooksack River, Whatcom County, WRIA 1, Sections 26 and 35, T. 39N, R. 4E.

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to repair and return the damaged portions of the levee to the level of flood protection found prior to recent flood events in order to protect human safety and property.

Work

The Applicant proposes to repair approximately 1,000 lineal feet (lf) of erosion damage. The following is the preferred alternative presented by the applicant:

Special accommodations:

If you need this publication in an alternate format, call the Shorelands and Environmental Assistance program at 360-407-6096. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Upper Site:
The upsteam section of the levee proposed for repair has a length that is approximately 578 lf. The upstream 200 lf of this section of levee is setback as a dog leg from the river and the remaining 378 lf just downstream is immediately adjacent to the river. The repair to the downstream section would require in-water work to re-establish the toe. The levee would be armored with Class IV to Class V riprap to the top of the bank on the riverward side. The launchable toe would be constructed 16 feet wide by 10 feet high by placing two to four ton stone. The riverward slope would be pulled landward allowing more conveyance. The existing riprap would be used and supplemented with additional riprap as necessary. The design of repair utilizing a 10 ft high toe would allow the Corps to provide the existing level of flood protection while maintaining the existing footprint and not filling the existing channel or requiring large trees to be removed on the backslope of the levee.

Work in the dogleg section would not require in-water work. Riprap from the November 2008 flood fight would be included in the repair consisting of creating a buried toe and placing a Large Woody Debris (LWD) habitat structure riverward of the newly constructed dog leg. Quantities of rock needed for supplementation would be determined by the amount of riprap remaining when construction begins. To accomplish this repair, minimal disturbance to the existing vegetation may be required. All disturbed areas would be hydroseeded with native grasses.

The design provides an area for the Corps to construct a LWD structure within the existing footprint to provide critical rearing habitat and high water refuge. The Corps would install a willow lift on 6-inch centers in 1 ft thick lift of soil along the entire 578 lf length, just above the ordinary high water (OHW) elevation for establishment of riparian habitat.

Lower Site:
Along this 400 lf reach, a 10-foot-wide by 16-foot-high toe would be created by pulling back the over-steepened slope allowing for more conveyance. All construction work would occur from the existing waters edge and move landward of the river. The project will require reworking of the existing slope and toe using existing riprap, and will likely include supplementation with additional riprap. Willow lifts would be installed on 6-inch centers in 1-foot-thick lift of soil, just above the ordinary high water (OHW) elevation for the establishment of riparian habitat. On the downstream portion of this repair LWD will be included in the repair.

Comment and Review Period

Ecology is requesting comments from the public, state and local agencies, tribes, and other interested parties to evaluate the impacts of each proposed activity.

Anyone wanting to present their views about this project may do so by providing written comments within 21 days of the publication date of this notice. Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the record.

Ecology will evaluate all the comments received to determine whether to approve, approve with conditions, or deny a certification for the proposed work.